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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

115862

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE: 25X1C

SUBJECT The Democratic Women's League (DFB)

INFO

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DIST. 10 October 1947

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PAGES 2

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence to the  
Archivist of the United States.

SUPPLEMENT

ATTACHMENTS: Three (2 pages)

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1. The Executive Committee of the Demokratisches Frauenbund (Democratic Women's League) met in Halle 13 July 1947. A list of participants is included in Attachment I.
2. The DFB is very anxious to coordinate its work with the Women's Committees which are still in existence throughout the Russian Zone. Thus far there has been considerable overlapping which has caused disagreement and rivalry. It has been decided now that the Women's Committees will be represented on the Executive Committee of the DFB. The Women's Committees have promised to exert their influence with local authorities to assist the DFB. Frau Magda Sendhoff of the Central Women's Committee was elected to the Managing Committee of the DFB.
3. The DFB has undertaken measures to gain representation in all organizations of importance. Application has been made for admission to the Technical Committee of Central Administration of Labor, to the Cultural Council of the Central Administration of Education, to the Central Council of the Volksfürsorge (Welfare), and to the Anti-fascist Bloc. It is also planned to gain representation in the Economic Commission. In Saxony the DFB has been assured a place alongside the political parties. The DFB is applying to SMA for similar rights in all states.
4. Dr. Durand never reported on the conventions in Bad Boll and Bad Pyrmont. A resolution was then passed that "... the women's movement is developing in the western zones but it consists of many individual, numerically weak women's societies and a merger is lacking. The DFB is of the opinion that such a diversity has a deterrent effect on the progressive development of the women's movement. Only a united women's movement can develop the energies for solution of the great tasks facing us. In the general political development now occurring in western Germany we see a great danger to the unity of our fatherland."

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5. Plans for public lectures to advertise the DFB could not be fulfilled because USMG objected that the DFB is not yet licensed in Berlin. "We must decide whether we intend to allow the public work of the DFB to continue to be suppressed this way".
6. A constitutional committee was appointed with Kate Kern as chairman, to work out suggestions for a German constitution. Experts were also selected for liaison with women and women's organizations in the western zones. The DFB is organizing a school for officials to be located in Berlin-Treptow.
7. Attachment II lists the members of the Bundesausschuss of the DFB. Attachment III lists members of the constitutional committee.

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Comment: For background information on the DFB see report no. [REDACTED]

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